

Remarks/Arguments

This paper is submitted responsive to the office action mailed December 3, 2010. Reconsideration of the application in light of the accompanying remarks and amendments is respectfully requested.

In the aforesaid action, it is noted with appreciation that all formal issues have been resolved, thus leaving only the prior art rejection.

Turning to the pending art rejections, it is noted that claim 1 was rejected as anticipated by EP 0 700 779 A2 (hereafter EP '779). Reconsideration of this holding as it relates to claim 1 as amended is respectfully requested.

EP '779 describes a process for production similar to the opening lines of present claim 1. The Examiner has noted that the claims do not require the bonding agent to be different from PU. This is understood, and by the present amendment, new claim 22 has been added which specifies that the bonding agent is different from the PP and PU.

In addition, new claim 23 has been added and specifies that the bonding agent is applied to the PP upstream of the pressing step (where PU is applied to the PP).

The claims are drawn to the specific embodiments of the invention illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, which are quite different from EP '709. In the embodiment of Figure 1, the bonding agent 3 is separately applied to the PP 1 upstream

of the pressing step where PU 7 is pressed onto the bonding agent coated pp 1. Dependent claim 22 requires the bonding agent to be a different material. Dependent claim 23 requires the bonding agent to be applied upstream of the pressing step, and dependent claim 24 requires the bonding agent to be a different material in combination with the subject matter of dependent claim 23.

In EP '779, however, Fig. 16 shows a bonding agent 16 which is the PU being supplied between the two nonwoven layers 14, 15 as a separate layer. No additional bonding agent is contemplated in EP '779. Further, no such bonding agent is applied to the nonwoven 14, 15 upstream of application of the PU 16. Thus, EP '779 clearly does not disclose or suggest the embodiment of Figure 1 as represented by claim 1 and new dependent claims 21-24.

In the embodiment of Figure 2, a blend of bonding agent and PU is mixed and applied together directly to the PP layer at the pressing step.

In either embodiment according to the invention, the bonding agent is already included in the PU or in the nonwoven and there are in both cases only two layers at the pressing step.

The result of this is that during production, no separate applying or spraying of the bonding agent at the pressing step is necessary.

If the PP non-woven is already provided with the bonding agent in molten state, not only the surface of the PP nonwoven is available for bonding to the PU product, but the bonding agent may also act on those part of the PU product which penetrate the nonwoven structure while pressing the PU layer to the PP nonwoven.

EP '779 does not disclose a bonding agent which is mixed with the PU or which is in the nonwoven in the molten state. EP '779 clearly shows the separate layer 16 between the two layers 14 and 15.

With regard to US 2005/0097857 A1, it is noted that this document only teaches that in order to improve the adhesion of the material PP that a certain maleic anhydrided-modified polyolefin may be utilized. In [0041] is mentioned that a tie layer 16 is present which comprises a bonding agent. This layer is shown in Fig. 3. The tie layer 16 is the same as the layer 16 in Fig. 16 of EP '779. This document does not teach to include the bonding agent in the PU or in the PP non-woven.

An earnest and thorough effort has been made to address all issues raised in the action and to place the application in condition for allowance. If upon consideration of the response, the Examiner has any question or issue which could be resolved by telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the

undersigned to discuss same.

Please charge any fee which is due and not enclosed
herewith to Deposit Account 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 4, 2011